

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FOR MAY, 1912.

DISTRICT NO. 12, COLUMBIA VALLEY.

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May in this district was a nearly normal month, both as to temperature and moisture. Although minimum temperatures were generally lower than usual and frosts formed in many sections on several dates, no reported damage occurred, as vegetation and fruit were too far advanced to be seriously injured except by extreme cold weather. In portions of western Oregon, however, some damage was done in April to prunes, plums, and apples by frost during the blossoming period, and in the Stuck River Valley of western Washington the cloudy, stormy weather at the beginning of May interfered with the pollenization of late currants and cherries, so they are not well set. Transportation was not materially interfered with during the month, and construction work proceeded without much interruption. At the close of the month the outlook from an agricultural and horticultural standpoint is much more favorable than it has been for a great many years. Especially is this true of sections to eastward of the Cascade Mountains, where there is usually less precipitation than has occurred this spring.

TEMPERATURE.

The average temperature, as determined from 259 stations, was 54.6° , or 0.5° above the normal. The weather averaged warmer than usual in the western portion of the district and colder than usual in the eastern portion. Only at a few stations was the monthly mean temperature below 50° . The weather was warmest during the middle of the second and the last half of the third decade, maximum temperatures generally occurring from the 13th to 17th and on the 29th. The coldest weather, as a rule, occurred during the first week, and minimum temperatures were recorded principally during the first four days of the month. The highest mean temperature was 64° at Blalock, Oreg., and the lowest was 38.8° , at Snake River, in Yellowstone Park, Wyo. The highest temperature recorded with thermometers exposed in a standard instrument shelter was 98° , at Hood River, Oreg., on the 14th, and the lowest was 12° , at Moran, Wyo., on the 2d, and at Pierson, Idaho, on the 3d.

PRECIPITATION.

The average precipitation, as determined from the records of 374 stations, was 2.37 inches, or 0.05 inch above the normal. The rainfall was deficient in western Washington, northwestern Oregon, northern and portions of southeastern Idaho, and northwestern Montana, and the greatest excesses, as a rule, were in central and interior southwestern Oregon, southeastern Washington, west-central Idaho, and southwestern Montana. There were two well-defined rainy periods, the 1st to 6th and the 19th to 30th; only local showers occurred during the

intervening period. The greatest monthly amount recorded was 10.02 inches, at Happy Home, Oreg., in the Umpqua drainage area, and the least was 0.12 inch, at Lost Creek, Wash., in the Columbia drainage basin. The greatest 24-hour rainfall reported was 2.22 inches on the 20th, at Sedro Woolley, Wash., in the Puget Sound drainage area. Some snow fell in elevated sections, principally in the extreme eastern portion of the district, the greatest monthly amount being 27 inches at Musick, Oreg., in the Umpqua drainage area.

THE RIVERS.

The Columbia River rose steadily during the month and averaged slightly below normal. Its lowest stages at Vancouver and Umatilla occurred on the 1st and were 8.6 feet and 9.8 feet, respectively. The highest stages at these stations occurred on the 31st, and were 19.4 feet and 20 feet, respectively. The water reached 32.2 feet at The Dalles on the 31st. This is a high stage for boats of the present power capacity, but as light loads were carried the regular schedule was being adhered to at the close of the month.

The Willamette River averaged 0.8 foot above normal. At Portland it averaged 6.9 feet higher than during April, due to the annual rise in the Columbia, but in its middle and upper courses it was only about a foot above its average stages for April. It reached flood stage, 15 feet, at Portland on the 20th, and remained above until the 31st, when its highest stage for the month, 19.1 feet, was reached. Warnings were sent to shippers in advance of the rise, and wharves were cleared in due time to prevent injury from high water.

The Snake River averaged 1.2 feet above normal, and the highest stage reported was 15.9 feet at Lewiston on the 30th. Its lowest stages were reached on the 7th at Riparia and Lewiston, and on the 8th at Weiser.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA.

Thunderstorms were most frequent from the 18th to 21st and from the 25th to the 29th. A rather severe thunderstorm, accompanied by hail, occurred at Warm-spring, Oreg., on the 19th. It is reported that the lightning killed some live stock and struck some trees in this vicinity. Light frosts were of general occurrence on the 6th, 10th, and 22d. They occurred at various elevations, ranging from a few feet in some instances to several hundred feet in the central plateau of the district. Heavy frosts formed in eastern Oregon, and quite generally in parts of Idaho and Montana. Little if any damage has been done to the fruit blossoms or to the growing crops. Wind velocities were relatively light and the sunshine and cloudiness about normal. Cooperative observers in practically all sections report good growing weather.